

Board of Health Meeting – September 4, 2019
Community Health Division, Lowell Health Department

Community Health Coordinator (CHC)
Kate Elkins

Sun Safety Initiative

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts awarded Impact Melanoma, a national nonprofit, with grant funds to launch a sun safety initiative in the City of Lowell.
- As of July 1 all Sunscreen Dispenser Kiosks have been dispersed:
 - South Common Pool – for public use
 - Shedd Park Splash Pad – for public use
 - McPherson Pool – for public use
 - O'Donnell Park Splash Pad – for public use
 - Mulligan Park Splash Pad – for public use
 - City of Lowell, Parks Department – for employee use
 - City of Lowell, Fire Department – for employee use
 - City of Lowell, Police Department – for employee use
 - City of Lowell, Public Works – for employee use
 - City of Lowell, Water Utility – for employee use
- Initial data has not yet been collected, but will soon work with Impact Melanoma to gauge usage levels.

Healthy Living in Lowell

- The CHC produced an August episode of Healthy Living in Lowell focused on Youth Mental Health, featuring guests from South Bay, Greater Lowell Pediatrics, Greater Lowell Tech, the NAN project, and Lowell Community Health Center.
- The September episode on Emergency Preparedness has been filmed and will air in September.

Move Your Way Campaign

- Community outreach is being performed to raise awareness of the 2nd edition of the United States Physical Activity guidelines through the “Move Your Way” campaign.
- The CHC attended an August conference of Early Childhood Educators and outreached to over 75 individuals, who were able to take campaign materials back to their various youth-serving programs.

Access to Equitable Physical Activity

- The City of Lowell was awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to establish more equitable opportunities for physical activity in Lowell over a three-year period.
- Shedd Park has been restriped for Pickleball. Other courts are awaiting crack repairs and power-washing before they are ready to be re-striped.
- DPD and the CHC are in the process of identifying three neighborhoods to begin walking route plans, using the CDC's 500 Cities Data which shows, through census tract, our most physically inactive areas. An internal advisory group has been identified and will meet in July – *this has been postponed again and will meet in September.*

Employee Health and Wellness

- The CHC is also working on the following employee health and wellness programs, with valuable input from a recent employee survey:
 - Informational e-Newsletter (monthly)
 - Challenge Activities for Employees (monthly)
 - Onsite health and wellness programming for fall 2019 including yoga, anxiety relief (fall 2019)
 - Employee Health Fair (fall 2019)

Additional Notes

- The CHC has been selected to serve on the Lowell Continuum of Care (CoC) Advisory Board
- The CHC worked on the following department-wide projects: Health Department strategic planning, Drug Free Greater Lowell website revisions, EEE mosquito sample alert and communications, Syringe Collection reporting, and preparations and communications for Flu Season.
- The CHC will have a public health undergraduate intern from UMass Lowell starting in September, for four hours per week, through May 2020.